

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WGBH Presents A Christmas Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan Celebrates Another Year at The Hanover Theatre



**Worcester, Mass. (August 31, 2016)** Brian O'Donovan's *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* returns to The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

Brian O'Donovan's *A Celtic Sojourn* is still thrilling radio audiences 28 years later. After fourteen successful years, the Christmas-time live version of the show continues to draw on Celtic, Pagan and Christian traditions to celebrate the music of the season. First launched in 2003, *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* reflects the compelling and diverse offerings of the weekly national radio program.

With legends of music, song and dance from the Celtic world and beyond poised to take the stage together, this year's show promises to continue its reputation as one of the chestnuts of live holiday music in the region.

Music director Seamus Egan returns with his legendary group, Solas. The virtuosity of Winifred Horan on fiddle, Johnny Connolly from Connemara in Galway on accordion and Eamon McElholm from Co. Tyrone on guitar will be supplemented by returning stalwart Chico Huff on bass. The show is delighted as well to welcome back harpist/singer Maeve Gilchrist from Edinburgh in Scotland and virtuosic cellist Natalie Haas. In this year's exciting exploration of the deep kinship among Irish, Scottish and Acadian music, Brian O'Donovan welcomes the truly

extraordinary Vishten, featuring twin sisters Emmanuelle and Pastelle LeBlanc from Prince Edward Island, and Magdalen Islander Pascal Miousse.

The wonderful voices of Vishten combine with those of host Brian O'Donovan, his wife Lindsay, Solas member Eamon McElholm and Maeve Gilchrist to bring strong choral and harmony singing to this year's show, along with individual performances throughout.

Internationally renowned Cara Butler, dance director for 2016, danced in the show in 2012 and 2014, and recently choreographed *A Celtic Sojourn* at The Boston Pops to much acclaim. Brian O'Donovan is proud to again present her stellar lineup and spectacular choreography. Additionally, The Harney Academy of Irish Dance from Walpole returns to bring their Christmas joy. Artistically directed once again by Paula Plum, this promises to be one of the most exciting *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* presentations yet.

Tickets to *WGBH presents A Christmas Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan* start at \$46. Discounts are available to members of The Hanover Theatre and groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available online at [TheHanoverTheatre.org](http://TheHanoverTheatre.org), by phone at 877.571.SHOW (7469) or at The Hanover Theatre box office located at 2 Southbridge Street in downtown Worcester.

### **About The Hanover Theatre**

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 180,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits ("Les Misérables," "Jersey Boys"), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Daniel Tosh), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Donny Osmond) and everything in between ("A Christmas Carol," Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the Top Theatres in the World. After eight seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's acquisition of 551 Main Street houses new function space, offices, rental space for a restaurant on the ground floor and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts on the lower level.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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